The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matter, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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WORKERS STAND BEHIND PROGRESSIVE SENATOR LA FOLLETTE

ORGANIZED WAGE EARNERS CONTINUE TIME-TESTED NO-PARTY POLICY

Atlantic City, Aug. 9.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has declared that the presidential candidacy of Senator La Follette and the vice presidential candidacy of Senator Wheeler, together with their platform, is the best expression of the workers' aspirations.

The council adopted the report of the A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee. The three tickets and platforms were analyzed and compared.

The following report by the Non-Partisan Committee states that La Follette and Wheeler have, throughout their whole political careers, stood steadfast in defense of the rights and interests of the wage earners and farmers:

Report of the A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee.

The executive committee of the A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee presented Labor's proposals to the Republican convention.

The Republican convention gave Labor's representatives a brief and curt hearing. The Republican platform ignores entirely the injunction issue. It fails to deal with Labor's right to organize or the right of the workers even in self defense, collectively to cease work. That platform sustains the Railroad Labor Board, with all that it means in the direction of governmental coercion of wage earners. It fails to recommend the ratification by the States of the Child Labor constitutional amendment.

The Republican convention nominated candidates unacceptable to Labor.

Its candidate for vice-president is one of the most outspoken enemies of Labor and is the founder of an organization dedicated to the task of writing into all political platforms planks calling for the anti-union shop—an organization which also encouraged and supported the Daugherty injunction against the railroad shopmen.

Labor's representatives submitted to the Democratic convention identical proposals to those submitted to the Republican convention. At this convention an extended hearing was granted. The Democratic platform pledges that party to legislation to regulate hours and conditions of all labor, a proposal against which the American Federation of Labor has struggled throughout its whole history. It is silent as to the injunction. It does not meet the Railroad Labor Board issue. On that point it is so equivocal that the enemies of Labor may well feel that their desires will be met. It, too, fails to recommend the ratification by the States of the Child Labor constitutional amendment.

The Democratic convention nominated candidates unacceptable to Labor.

As to the candidates and platforms, both the Republican and the Democratic National Party conventions flaunted the desires of Labor, the Republican convention in an arrogant manner; the Democratic convention by that evasiveness which is the customary mark of insincerity.

There remains the candidacy of Robert M. La Follette and Burton K. Wheeler, the first an Independent Republican; the second an Independent Democrat, running as such.

These candidates have proffered a platform in which the economic issues of the day are met in a manner more nearly conforming to Labor's proposals than any other platform.

This platform pledges a remedy for the injunction evil.

It pledges the right to organize and collectively to cease work.

It pledges protection of the rights of free speech, free press and free assemblage.

It pledges abolishment of the Railroad Labor Board.

It pledges a measure to annul the power of the Supreme Court to declare laws permanently unconstitutional.

It declares for direct election of president and vice-president and election of federal judges.

It recommends prompt ratification by the States of the Child Labor constitutional amendment.

It pledges subsequent federal legislation to protect child life.

On international issues this platform does not conform to Labor's proposals but it does more fully than any other political platform meet Labor's views in relation to domestic economic issues.

We can not do other than point out this fact, together with the further and perhaps more important fact that the candidates, Mr. La Follette and Mr. Wheeler, have throughout their whole political careers, stood steadfast in defense of the rights and interests of the wage earners and the farmers.

We can not fail to observe that both Republican and Democratic Parties through manipulated control are in a condition of moral bankruptcy which constitutes a menace and a peril to our country and its institutions. Machine politicians have brought upon our country moral obliquity and unashamed betrayal. We are judging on the basis of the condition which exists and this judgment will be reversed only when the conditions upon which it is based are changed.

Service to the people is a noble cause which demands consecration and the American labor movement demands that there be that consecration in candidates to whom it gives support and direction.

Our course is clear. In pointing to the platform and records of the Independent candidates, we do so with the confidence that no other course can be pursued if we are to remain true to our convictions and our traditions. Those who are hostile to Labor and to the people generally and who devoted their energies to the service of reaction and special interests, must be opposed.

We call upon the wage earners and the great masses of the people everywhere who stand for freedom, justice, democracy and human progress, to rally in this campaign to the end that the representatives of reaction and special interests may be defeated and the faithful friends and servants of the masses elected.

Cooperation hereby urged is not a pledge of identification with an independent party movement or a third party, nor can it be construed as support for such a party, group or movement except as such action accords with our non-partisan political policy. We do not accept government as the solution of the problems of life. Major problems of life and labor must be dealt with by voluntary groups and organizations, of which trade unions are an essential and integral part. Neither can this cooperation imply our support, acceptance or endorsement of policies or principles advocated by any minority groups or organizations that may see fit to support the candidacies of Senator La Follette and Senator Wheeler.

In the campaign to elect men to Congress, regardless of their political group or party affiliation and deserving of Labor's support, there must be unity of purpose and method, therefore leadership must lie with the only organization having the right to speak for the entire labor movement. In this the American Federation of Labor yields to none but will maintain steadfast its leadership, guidance and direction.

In the selection and election of men to public office within the several states leadership must lie with our State Federations of Labor and in city or county elections this right must rest with central labor bodies.

Organized labor owes allegiance to no political party or group. It is not partisan to any political party or group. It is partisan to principles—the principles of freedom, of justice, of democracy.

It is the duty of trade unionists, their friends and sympathizers, and all lovers of freedom, justice and democratic ideals and institutions to unite in defeating those seeking public office who are indifferent or hostile to the people's rights and interests. It is the duty of all to support such candidates to public office who have been fair, just and outspoken in behalf of the welfare of the common people.

We shall analyze the record and attitude of every aspirant to public office and shall give our findings the widest possible publicity. Labor's enemies and friends must be clearly known and be definitely indicated.

In calling upon all affiliated and recognized national and international and brotherhood organizations, state federations of labor, central labor bodies, local unions, labor's friends and sympathizers, to give united, unrestricted, loyal and active support to the non-partisan campaign now set in motion, we emphasize the imperative need of an intensive educational campaign to enable all to act with discrimination and wisdom in this election, and to stand faithfully by our friends and elect them and to oppose our enemies and to defeat them.

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
FRANK MORRISON,
JAMES O'CONNELL,
MATTHEW WOLL,
Executive Committee, American Federation of Labor National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee.

LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN HISTORY REVIEWED BY A. F. OF L. OFFICIALS

Atlantic City, Aug. 9.—A review of labor's non-partisan history and a list of its political demands on the major parties at their recent national conventions is included in a report to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. by the Executive Committee of the A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee.

To the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor:

The Executive Council, at its last meeting, instructed the Executive Committee of the American Federation of Labor National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee, and as many other members of the Executive Council as could find it convenient, to attend the National Democratic and Republican conventions, and that the Executive Committee present the demands of Labor to both conventions.

These instructions were carried out and we present the following report:

The policy of the American Federation of Labor's active and positive participation in politics was inaugurated in 1906. This non-partisan political policy was intended to secure the election of those in favor of the just and the humanitarian aims and purposes of the labor movement and the defeat of those who had demonstrated their hostility to the cause of labor.

The scope of the application of our policy has been extended to apply not only to congressional elections but to the offices of president and vice-president of the United States and to participation in primary elections. However, in principle the non-partisan policy inaugurated in 1906 has ever since governed the political course of the American Federation of Labor. Adherence to this non-partisan policy has resulted in a splendid record of legislative achievements. Reference to our 1906 bill of Grievances compared with legislative enactments since testifies to the progress and success resulting from Labor's non-partisan political policy.

In keeping with this non-partisan political policy and by direction of the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, the Executive Council and the Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee of the American Federation of Labor prepared a series of legislative and constitutional proposals for submission to both major political parties for favorable consideration and incorporation into their political platforms.

These proposals were as follows:

"Washington, D. C., June 9, 1924.

Out of our experiences as workers and citizens of this republic American labor has reached carefully considered conclusions upon proposals that should be embodied in our national policies. As your political party is to make an appeal to the minds and consciences of the voters for support of a national programme to be formulated in your party platform, as representatives of America's workers we submit for your most earnest consideration proposals that labor deems essential to continued national progress and maintenance of a genuine patriotism that comes from confidence in guiding political ideals as well as wisdom and integrity of administration.

With fully justified reasons our voters will scrutinize most critically the declarations and decisions of party conventions held this year. There is imperative need for revival of a feeling of high responsibility for maintaining political activity on a plane compatible with those ideals for which we as a republic stand. The following proposals constitute the legislative programme which labor urges as imperative and eminently constructive, and insists should be included in your platform:

To promote highest material progress which is the basis for national effectiveness as well as an agency for national service we urge that industry and commerce be freed from legislative prohibitions that restrict development in conformity to economic requirements. To this end we propose the repeal of anti-trust legislation and the enactment of legislation that will provide regulation in public interest and legalize economic organization as well as the constructive activities of trade associations.

It is unescapable that an integral part of legislation establishing this economic policy is full recognition of the right of workers to assist themselves in unions for their protection and advancement both as workers and citizens and collectively to carry on the legitimate functions of trade unions. Perversion of the injunctive process to apply to personal relations in industrial disputes must be prohibited and equity procedure returned to its beneficent service in protection of property.

It is essential for the conservation of national virility that child life be protected. We therefore urge the ratification by the states of the joint resolution passed by the Congress, to amend the Constitution empowering the Congress to enact such legislation as will safeguard the future child life of our Republic.

Because the labor clauses of the transportation act of 1920 have proved ineffective, we ask their repeal and the enactment of legislation that will afford opportunity for the voluntary organizations of management and employes to deal with problems of industrial relations.

We demand the enactment of legislation providing that products of convict labor shipped from one state into another shall be subject to the laws of the latter state exactly as though they had been produced therein.

In order to mitigate unemployment attending business depressions, we urge the enactment of legislation authorizing that construction and repair of public works be initiated in periods of acute unemployment.

In appreciation we urge adequate provision for the full rehabilitation of all injured in the service during the World War.

We urge proper recognition of the work of those in the civilian service of the government with adequate compensation based upon equitable classification.

We favor the enactment of more comprehensive compensation laws to provide for all workers not covered by state compensation acts. We demand more liberal provisions for those incapacitated by industrial accidents or occupational diseases.

We maintain that the Volstead act is contrary to the desire of the majority of our citizens as well as the spirit of the eighteenth amendment, and we demand that it be modified to permit the manufacture and sale of beer containing not more than 2.75 per cent alcohol.

We declare for the maintenance of freedom of speech, press, assemblage and association. We oppose any regulation to restrict these fundamental rights, believing that individuals and groups should be responsible for their acts and utterances.

We oppose conscription except as a military measure for defensive war and oppose all proposals to initiate compulsory labor under whatever guise.

In order to maintain representative government based upon the will of the people, we advocate a constitutional amendment enabling Congress to re-enact by two-thirds vote any measure declared unconstitutional by the supreme court of the United States.

Labor favors graduated income and inheritance taxes and opposes the sales tax as well as all other attempts to place excessive burdens on those least able to pay.

We demand that our nation identify itself with international agencies and conferences to promote world peace. We urge membership in the League of Nations and participation in the world court.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President,
JAMES DUNCAN, First Vice-President.
JOSEPH F. VALENTINE, Second Vice-President,
FRANK DUFFY, Third Vice-President,
WILLIAM GREEN, Fourth Vice-President,
T. A. RICKERT, Fifth Vice-President,
JACOB FISCHER, Sixth Vice-President.
MATTHEW WOLL, Seventh Vice-President.
MARTIN F. RYAN, Eighth Vice-President,
DANIEL J. TOBIN, Treasurer.
Attest: FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.
Executive Council, American Federation of Labor.

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
FRANK MORRISON,
JAS. O'CONNELL,
Executive Committee, A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee.

In addition the Executive Council adopted the following declaration on the selection of candidates for the offices of president and vice-president, which declaration was directed to the convention of both major political parties, and to the conference group having placed Independent presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the field:

Devoted to the cause of American principles of justice and freedom, and patriotically desirous of contributing the efforts of the working people of our republic in the furtherance of true Americanism and of the improvement in the life and of the standards and conditions of work of the toiling masses of our country, the American Federation of Labor through its Executive Council enters the impending political campaign for the election of president and vice-president of the United States and of senators and representatives, for the purpose of service to the people and institutions of our common country.

In keeping with the traditional policy of the American Federation of Labor, the Executive Council in regular session assembled, considering our duties as American citizens and our responsibilities as the representatives of America's wage earners do hereby manifest and express to the conventions of the major political parties of our country the earnest hope and pressing insistence that the declaration of intentions to be formulated by each of these political parties, containing pledges to be redeemed by congressional and executive action, shall embrace the full protection and promotion of the rights and interests of the great mass of the people of the republic—the farmers and wage earners.

It is the further hope and insistence of the American wage earners that founded upon a platform of honor, honesty and progress, candidates will be nominated for president and vice-president of the United States who shall commend themselves to the favorable consideration of the great mass of the citizenship of our country, and that in the selection of these candidates the hopes, aspirations, and claims of America's wage earners for favorable consideration shall be treated fairly and justly.

Favorable consideration is strongly urged of the names of outstanding types of America's workers for the nominations to positions within the gift of these political party conventions, and all workers, all citizens are called upon in bringing to realization the high and lofty purpose of securing the selection of candidates capable of intelligently, fearlessly, and justly promoting and protecting the human interest of our people and of restoring and safeguarding the principles of justice and freedom.

FARMERS' BUYING POWER HAS BEEN OVERRATED

Washington, Aug. 9.—The department of agriculture states that the estimate of a billion-dollar increase to farmers, because of advanced prices, is exaggerated.

"It is possible that American wheat growers will get from $100,000,000 to $200,000,000 more for their wheat this year than last, assuming that they sell over 500,000,000 bushels," the department states.

"This is considerably less than $1,000,000,000 increase estimated in some quarters, but bespeaks an increased ability to pay off debts and a general improvement in financial conditions in the wheat country."

The department states that the "corn situation is by no means good." This will affect live stock prices.

New York, Aug. 9.—Wall street has revised its estimate of $1,000,000,000 profit for farmers, since the department of agriculture states that the figure will range between $100,000,000 and $200,000,000.

PROFIT IN DRUGS

New York, Aug. 9.—The United Drug company reports a net profit of $2,701,168 for the first six months of the present year. This is an increase of more than $700,000 over the same period a year ago.

TRADITIONAL POLICY ADHERED TO BY LABOR

Atlantic City, Aug. 9.—In a message to President Gompers, Senator La Follette indicates a thorough knowledge of labor's non-partisan political policy. If this system were generally followed, the senator said, it would make the government of our country what it was intended to be.

"I desire to express my deep appreciation for the action taken by the American Federation of Labor in indorsing the independent candidacy of Senator Wheeler and myself," Senator La Follette said. "In taking this step after deliberate judgment, the A. F. of L. has adhered to its traditional non-partisan policy.

"The importance of the support by the A. F. of L. for the progressive ticket cannot be overestimated. Your executive committee, in stating the American Federation's political purpose, says:

"Organized labor owes allegiance to no political party or group. It is not partisan to any political party or group. It is partisan to principles—the principles of freedom, justice and democracy."

"It seems to me that in this brief paragraph you have set forth a creed of citizenship which, if accepted and acted upon by the great body of common citizens, would rapidly make the government of our country what it was intended to be—the people's own instrument of service.

"I have in my public record attested my accord with the aspirations of American wage earners, as represented by the American Federation of Labor. I welcome this indorsement.

"To break the combined power of selfish interests upon government is the paramount issue of this campaign, and with the support of organized labor, the farmers, business men, professional men and all other men and women whose true interest in government is that of good citizenship, I feel confident we shall win."

WORKERS NOT WANTED

Oklahoma City, Aug. 9.—Trade unionists were warned not to be lured to the zinc fields of this section by the claim that men are in demand. There are a surplus of these workers. They are attempting to organize under jurisdiction of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

MOVIE OPERATORS WIN

El Paso, Texas, Aug. 16.—The moving picture operators have unionized five large movie houses in this city.

Atlantic City, Aug. 16.—The convention of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada will meet in this city September 15.

"Restricted production intentionally caused by owners, management or labor.

"Lost production caused by ill

urge workers to "produce more" while ignoring conditions that shorten the lives of workers and cause wastes that annually total vast sums.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 16.—Wage contracts with improved conditions have been secured by organized musicians, stage employes and moving picture operators.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Celluloid films so thin that 254,000 of them can be packed into a space one inch thick have been produced by the United States bureau of standards.

drivers, two concerns are importing strikebreakers from Chicago.

Six of these gangsters, who were armed with loaded sections of rubber hose, were arrested.

All Labor Urged, In Stirring Appeal, To Join In Vigorous Campaign

Atlantic City, Aug. 9.—The Executive Committee of the A. F. of L. Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee has drafted an appeal to all organizations of labor to bring into immediate action the whole machinery of labor's campaign. The committee is composed of President Gompers, Secretary Frank Morrison, Vice President Matthew Woll and James O'Connell, president of the A. F. of L. metal trades department.

The appeal, in addition to being addressed to all organized labor, is also addressed to the friends and sympathizers and to forward looking men and women generally throughout our Republic to contribute immediately and as generously as possible to the work of the A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee. Our contributions must come from the great rank and file, for the battle of the people and it must be financed by the people. We have neither the desire nor the opportunity to avail ourselves of the large contributions of the vested interests. We are in opposition to those interests, fighting against them for the freedom of the people and for justice to the people in every respect.

Campaign work will be begun immediately. The National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee already has begun to organize the forces for the struggle. We call upon all state federations of labor, all city central bodies and all local unions immediately to appoint non-partisan political campaign committees to carry on the work of the campaign and to report the names of the chairman of each committee to the National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee.

We particularly call upon national and international unions to assign the largest possible number of organizers to work throughout the campaign under the direction of this committee and to authorize those organizers to report to this committee at the earliest possible moment. It should be specified as to whether these organizers are experienced as public speakers and as many as possible who are so qualified should be assigned to this important work.

The American labor movement should and can have at work more effective workers than any other element in this national campaign. It should and can have more public speakers on the platform than any other organized force in this campaign.

The American labor movement should and can contribute more effectively than any other organized body to the great work of spreading the literature of the campaign and awakening the people generally to the great issues of the time.

We call upon every trade union organization to act at once, either in regular meeting or in special meeting if necessary. There is no time to lose.

Our struggle is for economic and moral righteousness. We are contending against those hostile to the people's interests and against two powerful organizations which are defenders, advocates and apologists of great special interests and privilege. Against this great organized force of special interest we place the moral force of an aroused and determined people.

Communications containing advice and counsel, as well as information, will be forwarded at frequent intervals from the National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee to all state, city and local union committees and to others who give service in this great effort.

In the immediate future advice and information concerning candidates for the United States senate and the house of representatives will be forwarded, in order that there may be complete unity of action in every direction.

Respond immediately with contributions of money. These should be sent to Frank Morrison, Secretary, National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Respond immediately with the appointment of non-partisan committees in all of the state federations of labor, in the one thousand central bodies and in the 30,000 local trade and labor unions throughout America.

Privilege has thrown down to us a double challenge. Let us take up that challenge in all of the proud consciousness of right and in that spirit let us engage in battle for the right—for freedom, for justice, for democracy, for government by and for the people, for a better nation and a better manhood, womanhood and childhood. Ours is the great opportunity, ours is the great duty.

Yours fraternally,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
FRANK MORRISON,
MATTHEW WOLL,
JAMES O'CONNELL,

Executive Committee, A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee.

UNCHALLENGED REASONS WHY LABOR SUPPORTS LA FOLLETTE

The outstanding reason why labor supports the independent candidacy of La Follette and Wheeler is because their platform more nearly represents labor's demands and because "Mr. La Follette and Mr. Wheeler have, throughout their whole political careers, stood steadfast in defense of the rights of the wage earners and the farmers."

The two major parties, the A. F. of L. executive council declares, "are in a condition of moral bankruptcy which constitutes a menace and a peril to our country and its institutions."

"Machine politicians have brought upon our country moral obliquity and unashamed betrayal," labor's indictment reads.

"We are judging on the basis of the condition which exists, and this judgment will be reversed only when the conditions upon which it is based are changed.

"Both the Republican and the Democratic national party conventions flaunted the desires of labor, the Republican convention in an arrogant manner; the Democratic convention by that evasiveness which is the customary mark of insincerity."

Attention is called to the La Follette-Wheeler platform, which pledges:

A remedy for the injunction evil.

The right to organize and collectively cease work.

Protection of free speech, free press and assemblage.

Abolishment of railroad labor board.

To annul supreme court's power to declare laws permanently unconstitutional.

For direct election of president and vice president and election of federal judges.

Recommends prompt ratification by the states of the child labor constitutional amendment and pledges subsequent federal legislation to protect child life.

"On international issues, this platform does not conform to labor's proposals, but it does more fully than any other political platform meet labor's views in relation to domestic economic issues," the executive council said.

"Our course is clear. In pointing to platform and records of the independent candidates, we do so with the confidence that no other course can be pursued if we are to remain true to our convictions and our traditions."

In language that can not be misunderstood, the executive council defines the lines along which the trade union movement will operate in this campaign. Labor will not be an adjunct to any group nor will it surrender its non-partisan status because it favors the candidacy of Senator La Follette and Senator Wheeler.

"Co-operation hereby urged," the executive council said, "is not a pledge of identification with an independent movement or a third party, nor can it be construed as support for such a party, group or movement except as such action accords with our non-partisan political policy.

"Neither can this co-operation imply our support, acceptance or indorsement of politics or principles advocated by any minority groups or organizations that may see fit to support the candidacies of Senator La Follette and Senator Wheeler."

POSTAL WORKERS' COMPANY "UNION" IS STAGE SETTING FOR VETO ALIBI

Washington, Aug. 9.—Resentment of postal workers against the veto of their wage bill increases, and a back-fire is started by friends of the administration. The first scene was staged at the White House by representatives of a postal workers' company "union." The president favors the wage increase, it is announced, if congress appropriates the money.

The vetoed wage bill carried a provision for the extra money. The president vetoed the bill because rates were not increased. The inference that congress has not appropriated funds is a new position.

While political parties do not issue statements when bona fide trade unionists call at the White House, the Republican national committee issued a statement on the occasion of the company "union" visit. The public is assured that "the president made no definite promises in this regard, but the assurance of his sympathy was entirely satisfactory."

The committee hints that the White House will send a message to the company "union" at its next convention. On that occasion department chiefs will hand bouquets to the "union," while its "leaders" smile and figure on the promotions they will secure.

In the meantime, legitimate postal workers' organizations will continue the fight for a living wage.

"It can not be too often repeated that postal workers are entitled to adequate pay standards regardless of a postal surplus or deficit," said Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks. The union official points out that if there is to be a direct relationship between costs and revenues the postal employes should be given a voice, in a substantial way, in fixing rates and eliminating those features of the postal service that do not earn their cost.

Under this head are numerous "political postmasters" who annually consume more than $30,000,000 in salaries while assistant postmasters do the work.

Another leakage is in the parcel post system, which has proven a gigantic subsidy to the mail-order houses. It is stated that three-quarters of the weight of all mail is parcel post, and that approximately 85 per cent of this is mail-order business. Eight packages go out to one coming in. This disproves the theory that the parcel post will bring city and country nearer. Instead, the congress of horseflesh is crowded out by the mail-order houses, who are calling on the storekeeper to aid them in defeating any changes in the parcel post system.

TRICKY COMMUNISTS CAUGHT IN OWN TRAP

Washington, Aug. 9.—As horses-from-within, the communists present a sorry spectacle. They are caught in their own trap and have exposed their hypocrisy.

Prior to the St. Paul "farmer-labor" convention, they professed great friendship for the trade union movement. They favored a farmer-labor and nominating Senator La Follette. They were spurned in both instances, and now they howl that Gompers "is the arch betrayer of the American working class."

Every revolutionist in the last half century who has failed to control the trade union movement has made the same charge.

In pointing out the communists' double-dealing policy President Gompers called attention to their willingness to indorse Senator La Follette, "but the senator forestalled that calamity by denouncing the whole communist outfit."

"This chagrined," continued President Gompers, "Foster and Ruthenberg, in control of the machinery set up in the St. Paul convention, betrayed the men and women who went there with honest purposes and convictions, set up dummy candidates who were almost immediately discarded without ceremony and then proceeded to attack Senator La Follette.

"Without expressing any further opinion, I am sure the senator will be pleased to know that international revolutionary communism opposes him.

For my part, I should consider it extremely unfortunate for any political leader or for any labor or trade union official to have the friendship of those whose first object is the destruction of our labor movement as a condition precedent to the destruction of all of our democratic institutions and finally of the republic itself.

"The whole movement headed by Foster and Ruthenberg has been crushed in the United States by the fight led by the American Federation of Labor. It is natural that these agents of Moscow, leading a forlorn straggling of revolutionists, beaten at every turn, should seek to arouse interest by the use of vituperative language."

POWDERLY'S PASSING RECALLED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Aug. 9.—In the American Federationist, current issue, President Gompers pays this tribute to a one-time notable figure in the world of labor.

"Terence V. Powderly, once a figure known throughout the country as the grand master workman of the Knights of Labor, recently passed away at his home in Washington. For many years Mr. Powderly had been employed in the United States department of labor, where he served with faithfulness and credit.

"During these years his relations with the A. F. of L. and his eagerness to serve and support the A. F. of L. were among the characteristics which most marked his work.

"Before the A. F. of L. entered the field, and while the Knights of Labor were coming to their fleeting height of power, T. V. Powderly was a commanding and dramatic figure. If the order was builded along lines that could not be permanent and helped to bring into being a structure that was bound to collapse of its own weight, because of its own false foundation, that was not because of Powderly's lack of devotion to the cause of the wage earners. He gave his services with a zeal and a self-sacrifice characteristic of his whole life and with the sincerity of everything he undertook.

"As militant as any human being could be in the struggles in behalf of labor, he was in his personal relations a man of magnetic and kindly personality, thoroughly admired and loved by those who knew him. Many of the pioneers in labor's struggle and many of those who participated in the formation of the A. F. of L. will mourn sincerely the passing of T. V. Powderly. That the movement to which he gave his great effort was not a movement which could withstand the test of time detracts in no wise from the service which he sought to give."

CAN'T WITHDRAW NAMES ON INITIATIVE BILL

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 9.—The state supreme court has ruled that signatures can not be withdrawn from an initiative bill that is intended to outlaw private schools. The court held, in effect, that the secretary of state has no authority to permit either additions or withdrawals of signatures from initiative petitions filed with him.

Duties of the secretary of state in regard to initiative are purely administrative, and he cannot assume quasi-judicial functions of removing signatures, the court held. Certifying officers might exercise such functions, it was pointed out.

HAVE HIGH MOVIE MUSIC SCALE

Chicago, Aug. 9.—The Chicago federation of musicians secured a one-year agreement. Rates are advanced 10 per cent, to $84.50 a week, for the downtown houses and $79 for other movie houses. The downtown wage is also highest in the country. This union is 100 per cent organized in the movie theaters.

TEXTILE WORKERS TO MEET

New York, Aug. 9.—Officials of the United Textile Workers of America have issued a call for the twenty-third annual convention to be held in this city, beginning Monday, September 8.

AGREE ON WAGE SCHEDULE

Atlantic City, Aug. 9.—The Glass Bottle Blowers' association and manufacturers have renewed their agreement.

Employers Wreck Silk Industry; Fake Products Is Leading Cause

New York, Aug. 9.—The silk industry is being wrecked by manufacturers who use substitutes and who are driving skilled employes into other activities, is the charge by Thomas F. McMahon, international president of United Textile Workers of America.

Writing in the Textile Worker, the trade unionist says that the American people have rebelled against purchasing products of American mills "on account of the fraud they now know is and has been practiced upon them."

Excessive tariff rates is another factor, President McMahon said. These rates are made use of "to gull the people by protecting American labor," though workers in that industry can prove that in comparison with per capita production in the same grades of fabrics manufactured abroad "the workers of America are being sadly neglected and underpaid."

President McMahon shows that full-fashioned silk hosiery manufacturers of this country have adopted a different policy and are paying skilled employes a decently high wage and are successfully competing with foreign nations.

"The reason they can do this," said President McMahon, "is because they admit the per capita production basis of this country is greater than the per capita production of foreign countries.

"We are prepared to show that when the silk manufacturer purchases his raw silk, at so much per pound, one of the first processes is the boiling down of the silk, which in many cases reduces the 16 ounces to 10 and sometimes less. The manufacturer gets this apparent loss to his selling price and assures his customers that the reason for high prices is the above-described depreciation in silk, caused by manufacture.

"He does not say that the pound of silk, which was reduced to 10 ounces or less by process, has been weighted by the addition of mineral and other artificial substitutes to bring the original 16 ounces of raw silk up to 18 and sometimes 20 in the finished state.

"It is this practice that has done more to injure the silk industry than any one thing I know of. It is time these conditions were brought to the public gaze.

"The membership of the United Textile Workers of America are fined for imperfect work in many localities, and these fines are inflicted in many cases where it is humanly impossible to produce first quality goods owing to the material, which in so many instances is of a second quality, owing to the above-described process of manufacture."

President McMahon states that this country is the only nation whose textile industry is not on a 48-hour basis. Some countries have shorter hours.

START LABOR DAILY

Oakland, Cal., Aug. 9.—The Union Labor Record, official paper of organized labor, has launched a morning daily. This city has a population of 200,000, and is situated across the bay from San Francisco. The new venture, known as the Daily Record, is the only morning paper in Oakland.

JAMES J. FREEL DIES; STEREOTYPERS' CHIEF

Caldwell, N. J., Aug. 9.—James J. Freel, president of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union, died suddenly at his home here, at the age of 60. He had just returned from the convention of his international union at Atlanta via steamer from Savannah. He suffered from an attack of dysentery and in this weakened state was seasick. His condition did not become alarming until the heat affected him and the development of an acute cardiac dilation caused his death.

Mr. Freel was a native of New York city. In his youth he studied law, and later became a stereotyper. He was elected president of the international union in 1902 and has been annually re-elected without opposition.

He was active in the general trade union movement, and served on important committees in conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

BAYING BLOODHOUNDS USED BY MINE OWNERS

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 9.—Coal owners in the Kanawha district are using bloodhounds against striking employes.

The workers are urging a wage agreement similar to the Jacksonville agreement. Kanawha miners have been on strike since April 1. Determined to break the spirit of these workers, the coal owners are evicting families without regard for legal procedure.

A thug band, recruited in this city, swept into Winifrede with high-powered cars on their ejectment mission. They were armed with rifles, clubs and bloodhounds with them. The inhabitants were terrorized while the thugs threw furniture and other belongings of miners upon the highway.

Percy Tetlow, president of District 17, United Mine Workers, calls attention to the coal owners' disregard of law. They know that the state law provides methods of procedure in such cases, and they know it is unlawful to employ armed guards or detectives without authority of the law, said President Tetlow.

OPPOSE WAGE LAW

Superior, Wis., Aug. 9.—The Folding furniture company of Stevens Point has asked the federal court to enjoin the state industrial commission from enforcing the state law governing minimum wages for women and minors.

The state commission has fixed women's and minors' minimum wages at 25 cents an hour for girls with a population of 5,000 or more and 22 cents per hour for smaller places. Lower rates are permitted for inexperienced employes under the age of 17.

The furniture company claims they have employes who are willing to work for less than the law but the commission will not permit them to pay these lower rates.

PLUMBERS WINNING STRIKE

Hamilton, Ontario, Aug. 9.—Plumbers are winning their strike for wage increases. The new rate is 90 cents an hour.

MINERS' WAGE CUTS ONLY AID EMPLOYERS

Indianapolis, Aug. 9.—Mine workers should not be fooled by wage-reduction offers, warns Editor Searles of the United Mine Workers' Journal.

Some of the most notorious anti-union fields have posted wage reductions. These miners are now receiving less money, but are not working any longer. Editor Searles points out that these concerns make no guarantee that employes will have more regular employment with the lower wages.

"Neither do they propose to sell coal for less than before they reduced wages," said the labor editor. "It is evident that the only object these companies have is to reduce production costs and pocket the savings as additional profit. It is the old game that is frequently worked by that class of coal companies. They know that once the men are organized and in a position to deal collectively they will not submit to such practices."

NEW HAVEN MEN STICK

New Haven, Aug. 9.—By a vote of 3,093 to 145 striking shop men of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad refuse to declare their strike off.

TEXTILE WORKERS PLEAD AGAINST MILL BONDAGE

Salisbury, N. C., Aug. 9.—In a plea to the pulpit, press and women of the Carolinas for assistance, the textile workers' joint council declares that there are more than 30,000 women and children in the mills and factories of North Carolina "who are not allowed to advance at the behavior of the state advances. They are not allowed to live like other citizens live. They are denied the opportunities of the larger life that other citizens enjoy."

The textile mills of North Carolina employ the largest single group of people in this commonwealth, but they are not permitted to function as citizens, the workers state.

"Their economic condition has been such that as a group they have grown up in illiteracy. These textile workers have no self-determination in their own lives. They are at the mercy of employers who dictate the terms of employment and through ownership of the workers' houses dictate the lives of these employes.

"There can be no pride in citizenship when people are thus controlled."

OLD-AGE PENSION ACT OUTLAWED BY COURT

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 9.—The old-age pension act of 1923 has been declared unconstitutional by the Dauphin county court. "It conflicts with the organic law of the state," said Judge Hargest.

The act provides for the payment of $1 a day to persons over 70 years of age who possess property valued at less than $3,000.

Last year the state appropriated $25,000 to inaugurate the system, but this sum was diverted for the work of the commission, and next year's legislature was to be asked for sufficient funds to meet the requirements of the act.

LABOR MAYOR ELECTED

Ponce, Porto Rico, Aug. 9.—This city, second largest in the island, has elected as its mayor, Blas Oliveras, vice president of the Porto Rico branch of the A. F. of L. Labor's victory was emphatic.

CHICAGO RATTERS WIN

Chicago, Aug. 9.—Organized hatters defeated the Farmgren hat company in its anti-union venture. This concern was a fair house until recently. After a four-months' strike it signed the union agreement.

PERCENTAGES FAIL TO JUSTIFY COMPANY 'UNION'

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ speaks slightingly of the Pemsylvania railroad's company "union," and Vice President Atterbury of that corporation replies:

"The employes of the Pennsylvania railroad are generally able to earn good wages as measured by wages elsewhere."

This is a diplomatic way of saying: "We do not permit employes to join unions, but we wait until organized labor establishes rates and then we 'generally' meet these rates when it is necessary to allay discontent and hold our employes."

In defending the company "union," Mr. Atterbury said that 51.2 per cent of the grievances have been adjusted in favor of employes.

This percentage means nothing, because important issues are joined with minor matters, such as a quarrel between a foreman and a worker.

If Pennsylvania employes won 98 per cent of their grievances and the company secured a general wage reduction and a lengthening of hours, who would win?

Mr. Atterbury and his associates would point to the employes' 98 per cent, but this figure would be less important than the company's 2 per cent.

Of what general import is it that some worker wins his grievance that some other worker has been promoted above him?

This is but an incident. It affects individuals. It is nothing as compared with the great outstanding principle on which organized labor bases its opposition to the company "union."

When the Pennsylvania railroad dictates how employes shall organize, and who shall represent them, that corporation controls the lives of employes.

It is impossible for these employes to win grievances backed by principle because the company "union" is organized to defeat that purpose.

Under that system, employes are "generally" paid wages that the trade unions establish. The company "union" never pioneers. It is a slacker. It trails behind. It is a profit-taker for the railroad. It is more genteel and costs less than the spy system. Its purpose is to hold workers back, as Mr. Atterbury cautiously explains.

It is impossible for Pennsylvania workers to win major grievances through the company "union" because the "union" is organized to check them. If they win the right to organize and to select their own representatives, the company "union" disappears.

The Pennsylvania will not voluntarily agree to this. Autocracy never yields until compelled to.

A denial of principle can not be defended by percentages.